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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) A method for methane fermentation treatment of an organic wastewater

containing a sulfur compound, comprising the steps of:

adding an oxidizing agent to the organic wastewater to oxidize the sulfur

compound contained therein to sulfur;

subjecting the organic wastewater after the oxidizing step to an anaerobic

treatment step for methane fermentation thereof; and

controlling a feeding rate of the oxidizing agent to be added to the wastewater

using a concentration of residual oxidizing agent in water flowing into the anaerobic

treatment and/or a concentration of hydrogen sulfide in a biogas generated in the

anaerobic treatment step as an indicator;

wherein when the concentration of hydrogen sulfide in the biogas generated in the

anaerobic treatment step is used as the indicator, the oxidizing agent is added such that

the concentration of hydrogen sulfide is 3 % or less.

14. (New) The methane fermentation treatment as recited in claim 13, wherein at

least one member selected from the group consisting of ozone, hydrogen peroxide,

sodium hypochlorite and a bromine based oxidizing agent is used as the oxidizing agent.

15. (New) A method for methane fermentation treatment of an organic wastewater

containing a sulfur compound, comprising the steps of:

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adding an oxidizing agent to the organic wastewater to oxidize the sulfur

compound contained therein to sulfur;

subjecting the organic wastewater after the oxidizing step to an anaerobic

treatment for methane fermentation thereof; and

controlling a feeding rate of the oxidizing agent to be added to the wastewater

using a concentration of residual oxidizing agent in water flowing into the anaerobic

treatment step and/or a concentration of hydrogen sulfide in a biogas generated in the

anaerobic treatment step as an indicator;

wherein when the concentration of the residual oxidizing agent in the water

flowing into the anaerobic treatment step is used as the indicator, the oxidizing agent is

added on the basis of at least one indicated value selected from the group consisting of

residual ozone concentration, residual hydrogen peroxide concentration, residual chlorine

concentration, residual bromine concentration in the wastewater and oxidation-reduction

potential of the waste water.

16. (New) A method for methane fermentation treatment of an organic wastewater

containing a sulfur compound, comprising the steps of:

adding an oxidizing agent to the organic wastewater to oxidize the sulfur

compound contained therein to sulfur;

subjecting the organic wastewater after the oxidizing step to an anaerobic

treatment for methane fermentation thereof; and

controlling a feeding rate of the oxidizing agent to be added to the wastewater

using a concentration of residual oxidizing agent in water flowing into the anaerobic

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treatment step and/or a concentration of hydrogen sulfide in a biogas generated in the

anaerobic treatment step as an indicator;

wherein at least one member selected from the group consisting of ozone,

hydrogen peroxide, sodium hypochlorite and a bromine based oxidizing agent is used as

the oxidizing agent; and

wherein when the concentration of the residual oxidizing agent in the water

flowing into the anaerobic treatment step is used as the indicator, the oxidizing agent is

added on the basis of at least one indicated value selected from the group consisting of

residual ozone concentration, residual hydrogen peroxide concentration, residual chlorine

concentration, residual bromine concentration in the wastewater and oxidation-reduction

potential of the waste water.

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